

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of June 3, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 3-10 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 5-10 have been allowed and claims 3-4 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 4 have each been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 2 and are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 5, and 8 have been objected to for a minor informality, which has been attended to in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,097,644 to Shirley. This rejection is deemed moot as claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

A Fee Transmittal is attached. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

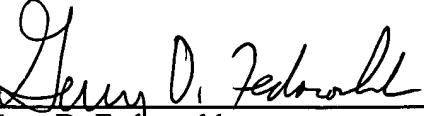
Appln. No.: 10/810,607
Amendment dated August 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2004

All objections and rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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